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STUDENTS RAIL AGAINST RACISM

Hundreds of Winnipeg high school students marched down Broadway Thursday morning to take a stand against racism. The idea started with a small group of students at Oak Park High School who were disappointed by the January issue of Maclean's that called Winnipeg Canada's most racist city. It quickly snowballed to include students from more than 17 Winnipeg schools. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

She's back!

Portrait. Queen Elizabeth II's likeness returns to city

ELISHA DACEY
elisha.dacey@metronews.ca

Every Winnipeg Jets 1.0 fan knows that no matter what happened on the ice, Queen Elizabeth II was keeping watch.

And after languishing in a warehouse for 13 years, the old girl has a pair of new owners.

The five- by seven-metre portrait that hung in the Winnipeg Arena for 20 years since Dec. 7, 1979, has been purchased by CN Rail executives Jamie Boychuk and Mike Cory.

A spokesperson for CN Rail said both Boychuk and Cory were unavailable for comment, but did confirm the pair did purchase the painting.

Boychuk is working on finding a public space for the painting, but the details have not been worked out, the spokesperson added. More information will be released on Friday.

The portrait was taken down in 1999 and the dozen oak panels making up the painting put into storage, with the intention of tossing it in the trash. However, a local enthusiast convinced Winnipeg Enterprises to let him try to find a new home.

That proved challenging, due to its size and weight. It ended up in storage and when it was moved again, it was damaged, prompting local artist Leo Mol to restore it.

Eventually, it ended up in Whitby, Ont. for display in a museum that was never built, so it stayed in the museum's warehouse collecting dust.

Scott Brown, spokesman for True North, said it's understandable Winnipeggers might want to see it hanging from MTS Centre's rafters, but the painting is too big and would obstruct people's view.

WITH FILES FROM SHANE GIBSON

The portrait that used to hang in the Winnipeg arena.
RON BULL/TORONTO STAR FILE

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Feds ignoring ways to reduce number of MMIW, study says

Missing, murdered indigenous women. Advocate says public inquiry is needed to find out why no action taken on more than 700 recommendations

Bernadette Smith, the sister of Claudette Osborne, who has been missing since 2008, lays placards of 94 women who have been murdered or are missing in Manitoba, at the provincial legislature in August 2009. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A new study says the federal government is ignoring hundreds of recommendations on how to reduce the number of missing and murdered aboriginal women.

The study, which analyzed 58 others on violence against native women, found most of the reviews spanning two decades agreed on the root causes of that violence.

But Ottawa has largely ignored more than 700 recommendations to address the issue, says the report, which was commissioned by the Legal Strategy Coalition on Violence Against Indigenous Women, which includes Amnesty International.

At the same time, the federal government has regularly pointed to "40 studies" that have been done when it has said a national inquiry is not needed.

"Yes, we've got all these reports, but we're not seeing the implementation," said Kim Stanton, legal director of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund. "What is really needed is a state-sponsored, public inquiry in every sense of the word."

The study says aboriginal women are more likely to live in poverty, in overcrowded homes or on the streets.

"Chronic underfunding of services to help indigenous women cope with these circumstances also contributes to their susceptibility to violence and limited ability to leave violent situations," wrote authors Pippa Feinstein and Megan Pearce.

"These issues are compounded by an unresponsive justice system that is often unable to accommodate the needs of those most at risk."

The authors found four reports published in the last three years that recommended a national inquiry. Another four reports — published between 2006 and 2012 — called for a healing fund for victims and their families.

A national inquiry is needed to find out why governments are ignoring the issue, Stanton said.

"If we have over 700 recommendations that clearly tell us what are some of the concrete actions that can be taken to address this issue ... then a public inquiry can look at that and say, 'Here's how you go about it.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Yes, we've got all these reports, but we're not seeing the implementation."

Kim Stanton, legal director of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund

'Now is the time for action'

Harper responds

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the government is taking action.
In response to questions from the NDP in the House of Commons Thursday, he said Ottawa is providing more resources for shelters, a national centre for missing persons and investigative tools for police.

"Now is the time for action, not for more NDP studies," Harper said.

People from across the country are to meet in Ottawa on Friday for a national roundtable on missing and murdered aboriginal women.

The RCMP estimates there are about 1,200 aboriginal women who are unaccounted for or have been murdered. Although indigenous women make up 4.3 per cent of the Canadian population, they account for 16 per cent of female homicides and 11.3 per cent of missing women.

Coola Louis, women's representative with the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, suggested Harper's comments are cold comfort to families who have lost loved ones, she said.

"It's not something that sits well with you if you've had a daughter or a sister or an aunt or your mother go missing."

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Donation drive seeks pads, tampons for Winnipeg Harvest

Campaign. Feminine hygiene products are being accepted at all Food Fare locations

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

A Winnipeg radio station has kicked off a drive to make sure Winnipeg Harvest has enough donated feminine hygiene products in stock for all the women who need them.

Leanne Cater and Michelle Cattani from QX104 started the push for donations this week after learning the not-for-profit had nearly 7,000 requests for maxi pads and tampons last month, but had only 125 to give away.

"Neither one of us had ever equated Winnipeg Harvest with that sort of product donation, it just had never occurred to either one of us, but it makes sense," Cater told Metro Thursday.

"If women are trying to feed their families and they need the services that are supplied by Winnipeg Harvest, it makes sense that they don't have the kind of money needed to buy those things, either."

To help fill the need, donations of new, packaged maxi-pads, tampons and Diva Cups are being accepted at all Winnipeg Food Fare locations until March 8. Men as well as women are being encouraged to help out.

"It might be a little uncomfortable for the guys, but we're getting a lot of support from them, too," said Cater. "I've been blown away by the response of Winnipeggers."

Winnipeg Harvest spokesperson Chris Alibi said they're grateful not only for the donations, but also the attention the campaign is bringing to the ongoing need.

"It's one of those things that's essential, that women need," Albi said, confirming the food bank sees roughly 7,000 requests for the products every single month. "So keep us in mind as you're doing your shopping ... Throw an extra box into your cart for us."

Fundraising

The campaign is also accepting cash donations through gofundme.com

In numbers

7,000

The food bank receives about 7,000 requests for feminine hygiene products each month.

Winnipeg Harvest warehouse workers Greg Schroeder, left, and Wilson Peinado hold up some of the donations of feminine hygiene products the food bank has received since QX104 started a campaign to collect donations this week. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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Auditor to oversee 311 audit implementation

Mayor Brian Bowman said auditor oversight — not a specific motion from council — is enough to ensure that recommendations from an audit on the city's 311 service are implemented.

Council voted on Wednesday to accept the audit as information, even though some of the suggestions, such as hiring 20 more full-time staff to meet response targets, would involve a sizable expenditure of cash.

"The auditor has the ability and the responsibility to monitor the implementation of those audit recommendations," Bowman told media.

"This report was simply received as information. We would expect that the recommendations would be implemented under the oversight of the auditor."

Bowman said what's likely to happen is that city auditor Brian Whiteside will come provide a report to the executive policy committee on the best course of action on the implementation of the recommendations and EPC will then decide which course to follow.

An audit of the city's 311 service found that people are waiting longer to speak to a representative and hang-ups are on the rise.

To fix that, the audit states 20 full-time hires are needed to meet the target of answering 80 per cent of calls within 30 seconds or the alternative is the city setting a "more realistic" target.

The audit also found that 41 per cent of the calls received in 2013 were transit-related, to which the use of Interactive Voice Response (IVR) was recommended so that those calls could be re-routed to Navigo and Telebus and "free up existing resources." BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Transit calls

41%

Per cent of calls to 311 related to transit.

Mayor Brian Bowman said the city's auditor will provide EPC with his implementation plan for the 311 audit recommendations. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

2015 budget 'an incredible undertaking': Morantz

Coun. Marty Morantz listens during Wednesday's city council meeting. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Taxes. Finance chair promises 'ample opportunity' for feedback

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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Winnipeggers will soon learn whether they'll be reaching deeper into their pockets to pay their property taxes.

On Tuesday afternoon, rookie finance chair Coun. Marty Morantz will table his first operating and capital budgets, which have been worked on for months.

Earlier this week, Morantz said in a press release "there's no doubt that creating a budget that is balanced, thoughtful and that provides strategic solutions in such a short timeframe — between the civic election and the provincially legislated deadline to pass a balanced budget — was an incredible undertaking and challenge."

The 2015 budget process has already come under fire for how it unfolded: involving mainly executive policy committee members, and creating a firestorm after several councillors claimed that pools and rec centres were on the chopping block.

Other councillors said they were hoping to have more time for feedback than was the case in previous budgets.

During Wednesday's council meeting, Coun. Russ Wyatt criticized the two-hour window on Tuesday morning for a council seminar, saying it's not enough time to analyze and comment.

Morantz said there will be "ample opportunity" for discussions past Tuesday.

In 2014, the property tax increase was 2.95 per cent, with one per cent for the Local Street Renewal Reserve, a dedicated fund that was first approved in the 2013 budget, another one per cent for the Regional Street Renewal Reserve and 0.95 per cent "to address inflationary pressures and service costs."

Southwest Transit debate reignited at city council

Could a dogfight be in store for the dogleg route of the Southwest Transitway?

During Wednesday's council meeting, the dogleg route chosen for the transit corridor that will link downtown to the University of Manitoba came up while expropriations were being debated.

Coun. Janice Lukes said that while she's in favour of public transportation, the dogleg continues to worry residents in her ward.

"People want rapid transit and they're willing to pay for it, and they want it soon, but I did hear concerns about the dogleg route," Lukes said, adding that she relayed these concerns to Mayor Brian Bowman during their first meeting after the election.

"I, as do many constituents of south Winnipeg, St. Norbert and residents all over the city, have grave concerns about the process surrounding the decision of the dogleg, the validity of projected development and revenue the dogleg is expected to generate, and the lack of adherence to core land-use planning."

Lukes said she knows many of her colleagues don't want to re-hash the project, but "there are no shovels in the ground, every project has adjustments and we may have to make adjustments as we keep moving forward."

Coun. Jenny Gerbasi said that while she understands there are new faces on council, they can't keep debating a project every time there's an election.

"We have our partnership funding in place, it's already been approved and I don't know if anybody's thought about what would happen if we decided to change the route,"

"We would have to go back and do detailed design again, we'd have to do functional design again, you'd have to study the whole thing again, and you would add years and years of cost escalation. Plus you'd have to go back to the drawing board with your funding."

Council voted unanimously in favour of the land expropriations for the $590-million Southwest Transitway and Pembina Highway underpass project, and for the Cockburn-Calrossie drainage upgrade. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Coun. Janice Lukes said during Wednesday's council meeting that while she supports rapid transit, the dogleg route has raised concerns among her constituents. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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Art auction. Red River College students racing to create a masterpiece

Students from Red River College's graphic design program will have less than 48 hours starting Friday morning to create a masterpiece that could be hanging in your living room by Saturday night.

Nearly 50 second-year graphic design students will set up at The Forks starting at 9:30 a.m. to begin work on an original piece that will be auctioned off to the highest bidder at a wine and cheese reception held Saturday night. All the money raised will go to Winnipeg Harvest and to help pay for the class' upcoming graduation.

"It's a win-win-win situation," said event organizer and Fenton's Wine Merchants owner Mo Razik of the annual auction, now in its thirteenth year. "For the students it's their first chance ever to create art in public … the benefit for the public is that they get to bid on original art that they've seen created in front of them … and all the while it's supporting a great charity."

Money raised

$20,000

Winnipeg Harvest spokeswoman Chris Albi said the auction has brought in just shy of $20,000 over the years. All the money raised goes to Winnipeg Harvest and to help pay for the class' upcoming graduation.

Winnipeg Harvest spokeswoman Chris Albi said the auction has brought in just shy of $20,000 over the years.

"For every dollar we get we can move $20 worth of groceries, so with that money we've moved $383,000 worth of groceries," said Albi. "It's a fun way to give to Winnipeg Harvest and you get a great piece of art at the same time."

The students will be working from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and the live auction starts at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Fire reduces Neepawa hardware store to a pile of charred rubble

The Home Hardware store in Neepawa goes up in flames Wednesday night.

COURTESY TWITTER/@THOMASWINDOWS

Home Hardware. Residents say outlet was one of the town's bigger businesses

A hardware store that was described as a significant economic driver for a western Manitoba town has been destroyed by fire.

Flames broke out some time after 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Home Hardware outlet on the main street in Neepawa, about 190 kilometres west of Winnipeg.

Lyle Morrell, who owns a restaurant next to the store, says the blaze was intense.

"There were flames shooting 30 to 40 feet out of the roof. It was horrendous."

Morrell also says there were apartments above the store. "As far as I know they were all full, but there was nobody home, nobody hurt."

Firefighters were at the scene for hours to prevent the flames from spreading to nearby buildings.

Witnesses reported hearing crackling noises or mini-explosions within the store as the fire raged, but emergency officials aren't sure what caused them.

Morrell says the loss of the store will have a big impact on the town. "It's one of our major businesses. It was a big draw for my restaurant and now with it gone, it's going to be tough. I'm still in shock."

There was no immediate word on the cause of the fire, or a damage estimate.

CKLQ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's one of our major businesses. It was a big draw for my restaurant and now with it gone, it's going to be tough. I'm still in shock."

Lyle Morrell, who owns a restaurant next to the Home Hardware outlet, pointing out that the loss of the store will have a big impact on the town.

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Tragedy

Text message may have saved others in house fire that killed four boys

Beverley Eberhardt would often babysit her eight grandchildren and have them over for sleepovers, and now half of them are gone.

Four boys were killed early Wednesday when their home in southern Manitoba burned to the ground.

Their mother woke up during the blaze and managed to get out safely with her three youngest children. Their father and oldest brother had been at work.

"I thought this was some kind of prank, but found out it was real," Eberhardt said Thursday, sitting in the cluttered kitchen of her mobile home in Morden.

She said her son-in-law, Jake Froese, had been working the night before with 18-year-old Steven at an industrial painting business in Winkler, Man. When they finished their shifts just after midnight, Steven texted his mother to tell her they were hungry and headed home.

Doralee Eberhardt was awakened by the sound of a beep from the message and realized the house was on fire, said her mother.

She grabbed the two girls and a boy who were with her on the main floor and got them outside. She then tried to get to the older boys on the second floor and hollered at them to wake up, but the smoke was too heavy and the flames too hot.

Beverley said when her son-in-law and oldest grandson got there, they called 911 and also tried in vain to get inside the burning building.

She said the parents are still being treated for smoke inhalation in hospital. She described her lost grandsons as "very special" boys.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

One fatality

Car crashes after police chase

A man is dead and another is in custody after a police chase that started in the Crestview neighbourhood Wednesday ended in a fatal crash just west of the city.

The chase began just after 11 p.m. when police tried to pull over a vehicle at the corner of Portage Avenue and Moray Street believed to have been used in a break-and-enter earlier in the evening.

Officers on the ground gave up the chase near William Clement Parkway and Grant Avenue, but police in AIR1 continued to track the vehicle as it headed west on Roblin Boulevard and then south on Wescana Street where it crashed into a ditch.

One suspect fled from the vehicle and was caught nearby. The driver was rushed to hospital in critical condition where he later died. METRO

The Peg gets ready for FIFA

Shueme, the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup mascot (top photo), leads a march through Winnipeg Square on Thursday to celebrate the 100-day countdown to the start of the much-anticipated tournament in Canada. Winnipeg will host seven matches at IGF beginning June 8. Thursday's event included games like poolball for onlookers, including two-year-old Kamila (bottom). BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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Change to transgender rights bill angers activists

Amendments to the transgender rights bill banning trans people from using public washrooms cannot stand, activists say.

"The bathroom part is appalling. That's discrimination at it's absolute worst," said Amanda Ryan of the Ottawa transgender support organization Gender Mosaic.

Bill C-279, which seeks to add gender identity to the Canadian Human Rights Act, passed the Senate on Wednesday. But before passing, Sen. Donald Plett, a Conservative member of the standing committee reviewing the bill, added a controversial amendment exempting the legislation from applying to "sex-specific" facilities such as public washrooms. Plett said it is a safety issue, and in previous committee meetings said that letting transgender women use the women's washroom "allows for pedophiles to take advantage of legislation that we have in place."

But many say that Plett's concerns are inherently discriminatory.

"To me that is assuming the transgender person is a threat to people, and all that we've worked for, all this legislation is all for naught," said Liberal Sen. Mobina Jaffer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jihad

Quebecers who left Canada may have been radicalized, reports say

Reports claiming six young Quebecers left the country in mid-January and may have joined jihadist groups in the Middle East prompted a call from public safety officials urging families to contact authorities if they suspect relatives have been radicalized. Montreal police and other authorities are offering little information about the reports that four men and two women from the Montreal area fled Canada to fight with jihadists. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Roundtable on missing, murdered women 'a start'

One-day gathering. AFN Chief Perry Bellegarde views Friday's talks as the beginning of a national dialogue

A woman holds a sign as hundreds of people march through the Downtown Eastside in Vancouver, B.C. during the 25th annual Women's Memorial March on Feb. 14. The march is held to honour missing and murdered women and girls from the community. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dawn Harvard says the short amount of time devoted to a long list of speakers and a packed agenda at the national roundtable on missing and murdered indigenous women Friday need not be an obstacle.

"It only takes a few seconds to say, 'Yes, we will commit X amount of dollars," said Harvard, interim president of the Native Women's Association of Canada, as she spelled out — with some hopeful humour — her desire for a strong commitment from provincial and federal government representatives at the meeting.

The consensus on just what to do about the fact that, according to the RCMP, about 1,200 aboriginal women and girls have been murdered or gone missing in Canada in the past three decades, may be harder to come by.

And the Legal Strategy Coalition on Violence Against Indigenous Women, a group of organizations including Amnesty International, released a report on Thursday concluding that the federal government has ignored most of the more than 700 recommendations contained in 58 reports on violence against aboriginal women and girls, raising the question of whether any agreements made at the roundtable will come to life.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde views the one-day gathering — to focus on prevention and awareness, community safety, policing and the justice system — as the beginning of a national dialogue.

"We never deprive people of hope. It's a beginning. It's a start," Bellegarde said Thursday, adding there has already been talk of a followup meeting to make sure whatever comes out of the roundtable is implemented.

The Conservative government, which has long resisted the idea of holding a national inquiry into the issue, is likely to focus on the $25-million action plan it promoted last fall.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, who is calling for a pan-Canadian prevention and awareness campaign and a better way to share police statistics, said Ottawa's action plan would not be enough.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Aeryon SkyRanger flies with a high-resolution video camera during a demonstration of the Michigan State Police's new Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), Jan. 15, 2015, at the State Police training track in Dimondale, Mich. DALE G. YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, DETROIT NEWS

Drone arms race brewing over prisons

Security. Nova Scotia prison looks for ways to keep airspace clear of unfriendly aircraft

One of Canada's newest jails is researching the use of detection technology to prevent the invasion of the drug-bearing drones that have plagued some North American prisons.

Tim Carroll, superintendent of the Northeast Nova Scotia Correctional Facility, said staff are examining ways to prevent unmanned aerial vehicles from lowering contraband into the jail's airing yards in a rural area north of Truro.

"We're looking at both obtaining our own drones for ... perimeter checks and verifying surveillance in and around our correctional facility and, in addition to that, detecting drones which are not government operated and that may pose a threat to the facility," he said in an interview.

Incidents recorded in South Carolina and Quebec in the past two years prompted Carroll's interest as he worked on plans for the 100-cell jail, which opened on Feb. 8.

He said that readily available, higher-end drones are capable of video reconnaissance — another threat that has to be considered.

A drone detection company says it has received inquiries from provincial governments as incidents involving drones over jails become more prevalent.

Boris Defreville, chief of operations for French-based Orelia Inc., said his firm is one of a few competing in the new drone detection market.

Sensors made by the company, which cost about $3,000 each, lock onto the sound of whirring drone blades, while competitors' devices lock in on Wi-Fi frequencies, use radar or employ infrared cameras, he said.

Defreville said jails are taking a cautious approach to actually buying products.

"Right now everybody is trying to understand what is the best solution to detect drones," he said.

Andrew Preeper of Nova Scotia's Justice Department said there hasn't been a recorded incident of a drone entering prison airspace in the province.

Meanwhile, drone detectors are just part of an array of technology aimed at keeping drugs out of jails, said Carroll, who has asked for approval to buy a body scanner worth more than $200,000 to keep contraband out of the jail in Priestville.

Body scanners are widely used in U.S. jails to detect everything from knives to pill boxes hidden in body cavities or other body parts.

Carroll said smuggled drugs undermine rehabilitation programs, cause more violence and lead to prison searches that confine inmates to their cells.

"Most incidents in facilities across Canada can be linked back to the introduction ... of contraband," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

D-Day strategist dies at age 101

Ernest Cote, a celebrated Canadian veteran of D-Day who lived a storied life on and off the battlefield, has died at the age of 101.

Cote was remembered fondly Thursday by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and senior cabinet members, but also by historians like Serge Durflinger, who said the former soldier led a rarefied life of adventure and accomplishment.

"It is the humility I will remember the most," said Durflinger, who teaches at the University of Ottawa and a friend of Cote's for 15 years. "He was always giving others the credit."

As a lieutenant-colonel, Cote was a senior planner for the invasion of Normandy and the logistics officer with the 3rd Canadian Division, which landed on Juno Beach on June 6, 1944.

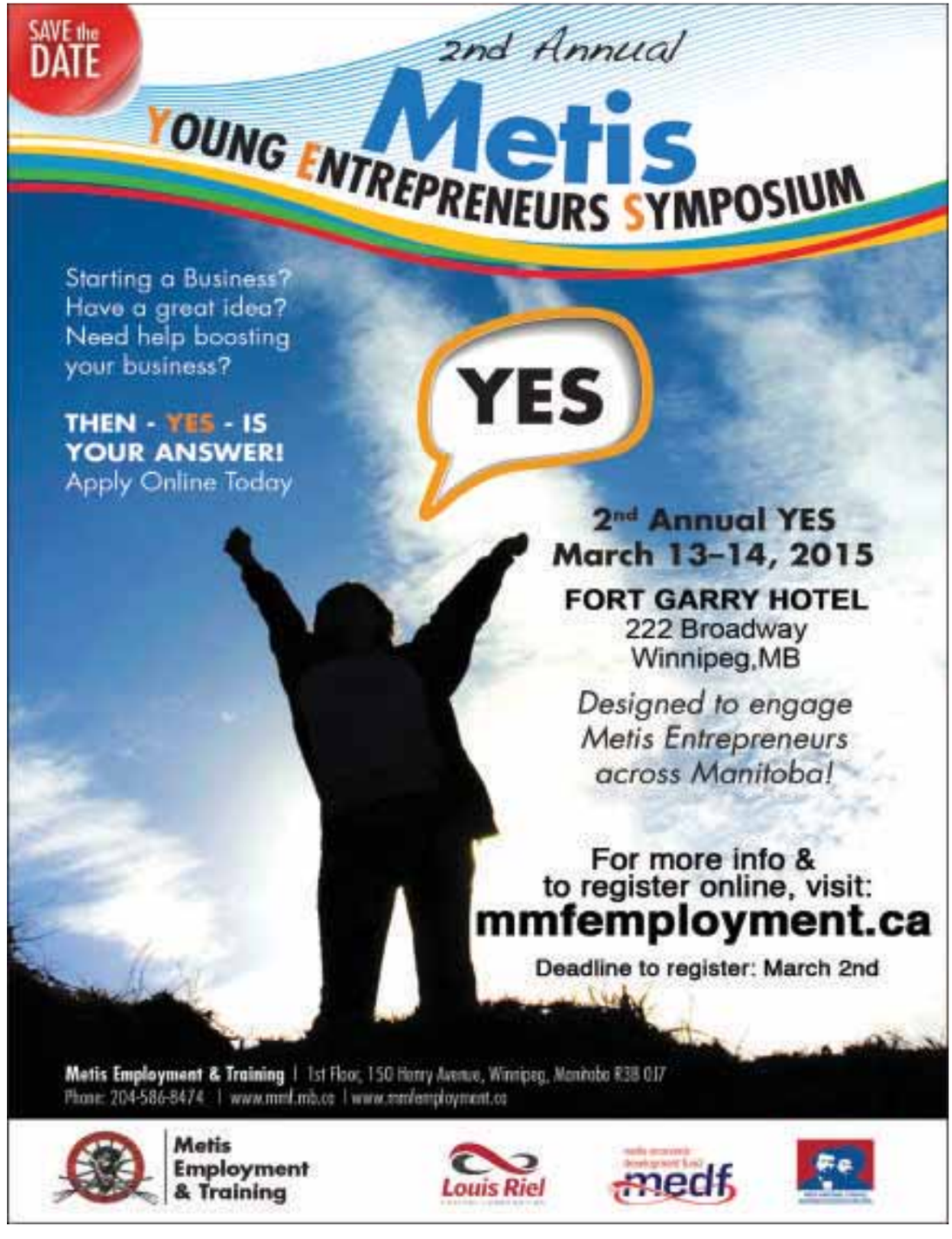
Cote was made a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by King George VI, an honour that was on display in the hallway of his Ottawa home for the rest of his life.

Following the war, he went on to have a distinguished career in the federal government as a diplomat and later a senior official, participating in the first meetings for the United Nations General Assembly in London, New York and Paris and helping to draft the charter of the World Health Organization.

Cote was deputy solicitor general during the FLQ crisis in 1970 and deeply involved in the response to the terrorist front.

Cote also personally knew every prime minister, from Mackenzie King to Pierre Trudeau.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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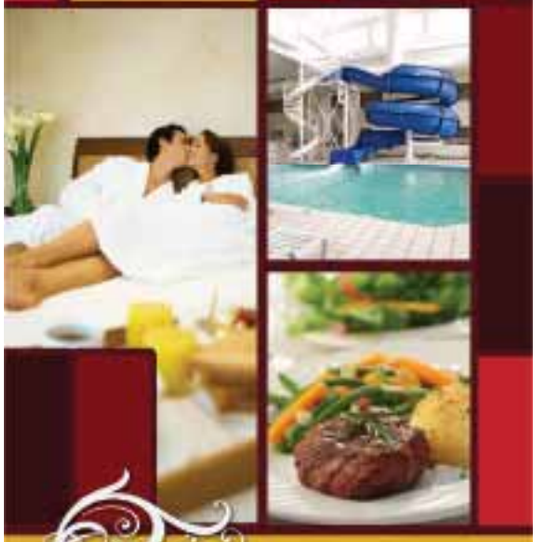

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In this image made Thursday from video posted on a social media account affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, a militant topples an ancient artifact in the Ninevah Museum in Mosul, Iraq. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL seizes more Christians, smashes ancient artifacts

Iraq and Syria. More than 220 abducted, according to activists

ISIL militants seized more Christians from their homes in northeastern Syria in the past three days, bringing the total number abducted by the extremist group to more than 220, activists said Thursday.

At the same time, the extremists also released a video showing the continued destruction of the heritage of the lands under their control. It depicted men using sledgehammers to smash ancient Mesopotamian statues and other artifacts in Iraq's northern city of Mosul.

The video, coinciding with mounting fears over the fate of the captive Christian Assyrians in Syria, sent a fresh wave of dread across the region, particularly among minorities who feel targeted by the group.

"Daesh is wiping Assyrian heritage in Mosul, and at the same time wiping them geographically from the face of the Earth," said Osama Edward, director of the Assyrian Network for Human Rights in Syria. He referred to ISIL by its Arabic acronym.

About 200 Assyrians and other Christians gathered in a church east of Beirut in solidarity with the victims in Syria and Iraq. Some cried openly.

One man held a banner that read: "We will not surrender, we will not be broken." A few young men said they were preparing to go to Syria to fight and help their brethren defend their homes against ISIL.

The destruction of artifacts in the Mosul museum is part of a campaign by ISIL extremists who have destroyed a number of shrines — including Muslim holy sites — to eliminate what they view as heresy. They also are believed to have sold ancient artifacts on the black market in order to finance their bloody campaign in the region.

In the video released Thursday, militants used sledgehammers and drills to smash and destroy several large statues, which are then shown chipped and in pieces. The five-minute video also shows a black-clad man at an archaeological site in Mosul, drilling through and destroying a winged bull — an Assyrian protective deity — that dates to the seventh century BC.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentine president gets a victory: Judge throws out bombing coverup allegations

A federal judge on Thursday firmly dismissed allegations that Argentine President Cristina Fernandez tried to cover up the involvement of Iranian officials in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish centre, easing a crisis for her government fed by the death of the prosecutor who brought the case.

Judge Daniel Rafecas said the documents originally filed by the late prosecutor Alberto Nisman failed to meet "the minimal conditions needed to launch a formal court investigation."

"There is not a single element of evidence, even circumstantial, that points to the actual head of state," the judge said.

Nisman had filed the complaint just days before he died on Jan. 18 under mysterious circumstances. Polls show many Argentines suspect officials had some hand in the death, though Fernandez and aides have suggested the death was actually aimed at destabilizing her government.

While the decision can be appealed, the judge's scathing wording appears to substantiate government insistence that Nisman's case was baseless, though his death still casts a shadow across the administration.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The potent politics of Israeli settlements

Democracy. Israel election highlights uneven voting rights

When Israelis go to the polls next month, tens of thousands of Jewish settlers in the West Bank will also be casting votes, even though they do not live on what is sovereign Israeli territory.

This exception in a country that doesn't allow absentee voting for citizens living abroad is a telling reflection of Israel's somewhat ambiguous and highly contentious claim to the territory, which has been under military occupation for almost a half century.

Over the years, Israel has cultivated a separate legal system there. The Palestinians are ultimately governed by Israeli military rule — while Israel's own criminal and civilian laws apply to more than 350,000 Jewish settlers in a way they cannot apply to Israeli expats.

The settlers' voting rights stem from Israel's 1969 election law that stipulates "there will only be voting on Israeli land," with exceptions made for diplomats and soldiers serving on naval vessels. The law was amended the following year — when the settlement movement was in its infancy — to allow voting by Israelis "whose address is listed in the population registry located in territory held by the Israel Defence Forces."

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war and began settling the territory soon after — first halfheartedly, then in greater waves, especially after the nationalist Likud first came to power in 1977. The Palestinians, backed by most of the international community, claim the area as part of a future independent state, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem.

Israel has annexed east Jerusalem and pulled troops and settlers out of Gaza, a tiny coastal strip with two million Palestinians now ruled by Hamas militants. The West Bank is a more complex issue, full of Biblical history and strategic significance.

Israel never annexed the West Bank, both due to intense international opposition and the demographic complications of incorporating its more than two million Palestinians into Israel. Annexation would have meant giving the Palestinians in the West Bank citizenship and the right to vote in Israeli elections, threatening Israel's Jewish majority. Israel proper today has some six million Jews and almost two million Israeli Arab citizens.

However, Israeli leaders have said they want to keep at least parts of the territory under a final peace deal with the Palestinians. And they have filled much of the area with Jewish communities — which does not normally occur in an area that is merely militarily occupied.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Disputed

"Israel doesn't see Judea and Samaria as occupied territories."

Dani Dayan, a leader of the Yesha settlers' council, referring to the West Bank by its biblical names.

Other occupations

The settlers' right to vote is considered a given by most Israelis, including many who oppose the settlement project. They also enlist for compulsory military service and pay taxes and even speeding tickets to Israeli authorities. The Israeli situation appears to be unique, though other military occupations have forged their own particular arrangements.

- **Northern Cyprus.** Occupied by Turkey in 1974, only dual nationals (mainland Turks who settled there and hold both citizenships) can vote in Turkish elections, whereas Turkish Cypriots cannot.
- **Western Sahara.** Annexed by Morocco in 1975, all residents, whether original inhabitants or the hundreds of thousands of settlers brought in by the government, have the right to vote In Moroccan elections.

In this Jan. 22, 2013, file photo, an Israeli Jewish settler votes in the settlement of Elon Moreh in the West Bank, during legislative elections. With few exceptions, Israel does not allow absentee voting. But when the country goes to the polls next month, hundreds of thousands of West Bank settlers will be casting votes, even though they do not reside in sovereign Israeli territory. DAN BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Social media. Facebook adds new gender option

Facebook users who don't fit any of the 58 gender identity options offered by the social media giant are now being given a rather big 59th option: Fill in the blank.

"Now, if you do not identify with the prepopulated list of gender identities, you are able to add your own," said a Facebook announcement published online Thursday.

Facebook software engineer Ari Chivukula, who identifies as transgender and was part of the team that made the free-form option, thinks the change will lead to more widespread acceptance of people who don't identify themselves as a man or woman.

Alison C.K. Fogarty, a gender identity researcher at Stanford University, said giving users control over the words describing their gender is a significant step in social recognition of a growing trans community, especially coming from the world's largest social media company.

In February 2014, Facebook expanded gender identity from male and female to a list of dozens of options, including Androgyne, Gender Fluid, Intersex, Neither and Transgender. Those choices will all still be available.

People who choose a customized gender can also choose the pronoun they would like to be referred to publicly: he/his, she/her or they/their.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Labels

"People are still fighting to make room for gender identity within the socially constructed binary of male and female.... Labels and identities are powerful in that they give a sense of community, a way of articulating one's experience."

Alison C.K. Fogarty, a gender identity researcher at Stanford University.

Ezra Levant crowdfunding new media venture

Ezra Levant, the former Sun TV personality, is taking to crowdfunding to help back his new media venture, The Rebel. According to the outspoken host's website, he has already raised roughly $100,000 for new equipment and more than $15,000 a month in ongoing contributions to pay for the site's operations. Levant said the money, which is being deposited into a PayPal account, has come from about 2,000 individual contributors. PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Public payphones

CRTC cracks down

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is proposing to tighten the rules companies must follow when they cut the cord on the last public phone in a community.

The CRTC wants firms to notify communities affected before removing the last public phone and also before removing a phone where wireless service is not available.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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U.S. watchdog bans ISPs from slowing web traffic

Net neutrality.
FCC's 3-2 vote ushers in a new era of government oversight

Internet activists declared victory over the big cable companies in the U.S. Thursday, after the Federal Communications Commission voted to impose the toughest rules yet on broadband providers like Comcast, Verizon and AT&T to prevent them from creating paid fast lanes and slowing or blocking web traffic.

The 3-2 vote represents the biggest regulatory shakeup to telecommunications providers in two decades.

The new rules require that any company providing a broadband connection to a home or phone must act in the "public interest" and refrain from using "unjust or unreasonable" business practices. The goal is to prevent providers from striking deals with content providers like Google, Netflix or Twitter to load their data faster.

The FCC had enacted open Internet rules by 2010, but the agency's legal approach was struck down in the courts. The vote Thursday was intended to erase any legal ambiguity by no longer classifying the Internet as an "information service" but a "telecommunications service" subject to Title II of the 1934 Communications Act. That would dramatically expand regulators' power and hold broadband providers to the higher standard of operating in the public interest.

The FCC says it won't apply some sections, including price controls. That means rates for Internet access won't be subject to preapproval. But the law allows the government to investigate if consumers complain.

President Barack Obama, who had come out in favour of net neutrality in the fall, portrayed the decision as a victory for democracy in the digital age. In an online letter, he thanked the millions who wrote to the FCC and spoke out on social media in support of the change.

Verizon saw it differently, using the Twitter hashtag #ThrowbackThursday to draw attention to the FCC's reliance on 1934 legislation to regulate the Internet. Likewise, AT&T suggested the FCC had damaged its reputation as an independent federal regulator by embracing such a liberal policy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Changes

Net neutrality is the idea that websites or videos load at the same speed. That means you won't be more inclined to watch a show on Amazon Prime instead of on Netflix because Amazon has struck a deal with your service provider to load its data faster.

- For years, providers mostly agreed not to pick winners and losers among web traffic. But that started to change around 2005, when on-demand video began hogging bandwidth, and evidence surfaced that some providers were manipulating traffic without telling consumers.

CRTC

Canada led way: Crusader

Canada has always regulated the Internet as a utility, which has made it somewhat easier for the CRTC to step in.

"They're sort of bringing their rules more or less with what we've got," said Ben Klass, a Carleton grad student whose own crusade against service providers charging in full for YouTube or other videos, but discounting their own, led to the CRTC issuing a landmark decision in favour of net neutrality in January.

Klass met with FCC commissioner Mignon Clyburn in October to discuss the Canada context. "What's been happening in Canada is actually a good indicator of how this might play out in the States," Klass said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VOICES

THIS IS WHY WE CAN'T DO NICE THINGS

THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

My mother used to say, "This is why we can't have nice things" after I'd done something stupid like putting a wet cup on an antique table — leaving a ring, wrecking the table. I was reminded of this phrase the day after the Oscars as social media — especially Slate and Vox — pulsated with scorn for Patricia Arquette. She had given us something nice and we put wet cups all over it.

On Sunday, after winning the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in Boyhood, Arquette ended her acceptance speech by demanding equal pay and equal rights for women in the United States. The crowd cheered and Meryl Streep and Jennifer Lopez had a simultaneous orgasm. It was a great moment and then Patricia Arquette went backstage.

In the press room, Arquette was asked to elaborate on her statement and here's where things got sticky: "It's time for all the women in America and all the men who love women and all the gay people and all the people of colour that we've fought for, to fight for us now."

Let no good deed go unpunished

Patricia Arquette tried to do a nice thing, but apparently, we can't have nice things today.

Ugh.

So, a lot of people took this to mean that Arquette thinks LGBTQ and people of colour have full equality themselves and that they now need to step up and help women. While the phrase may have been poorly worded — I'm surprised people can speak at all seconds after winning an Oscar — I think what Arquette meant was that we're all in this together. I don't believe she was trying to be exclusionary by mentioning those groups. I think if we put her and her speech into a benefit-of-the-doubt context, she was trying to be inclusive.

Patricia Arquette tried to do a nice thing, but apparently, we can't have nice things today.

Remember the Ice Bucket Challenge? The awareness campaign for the disease ALS raised over $16 million dollars in Canada (over $130 million worldwide). It was a nice thing. But during the height of this cold, wet, philanthropic trend, I saw post after post on Facebook about how it was "a waste of water" or "just an opportunity for dumb girls to show off their bikini bodies." An article in Macleans said something to the tune of "there are more important diseases" (is this some kind of really unpleasant competition?) and a dim friend of mine protested that half the people doing it weren't even donating. OK, but what about the ones that WERE?

In the art of improv (as in improvisation), when you're working with other people, there's a rule called "Yes, and." The idea is that you take what your partner gives you and build upon it: "Let's adopt a dragon!" "Yes! AND use its breath as a BBQ."

You use each other's contributions as building blocks to construct a scene. It's an improv sin to say "no" because "no" stops the scene in its tracks; if everyone said no, there would be no scene.

It seems to me that we are a society of "no." Patricia Arquette says she wants equality for women. "No, because she said it the wrong way." I want to raise money for ALS. "No, because it's wasteful. Now excuse me while I flush the toilet after my tiny pee."

Patricia Arquette is not the enemy. In this case the enemy is patriarchy and bigwigs on Wall Street and that's a whole other can of worms. But we're making it a lot easier for the enemy to continue to get its way by distracting ourselves with the imperfections of our own teammates.

If you see something good that you think could be better, why not say "Yes, and!" and build upon it?

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From imbibing bears to pernicious pundits, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:

CHEATERS WIN

Recognizing that legalizing something is not the same as endorsing it, South Korea has stopped criminalizing adultery. No longer will children play boisterous games of "cops and cheaters," and John Updike books will now be moved out of the Crime Thriller section of South Korean bookstores.

DON'T PLY THE BEARS

Two bears that were being kept in a small, filthy cage outside a restaurant in Sochi, Russia, have been confiscated and are being treated for alcoholism. The animals got hooked on booze because visitors kept giving them beer. A sanctuary in Romania has offered to take them in.

PEAK RECORD

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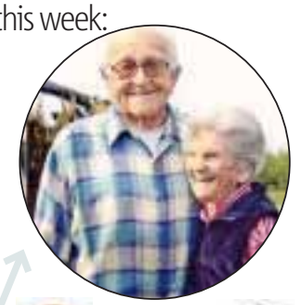
THE OH-REILLY FACTOR

Bill O'Reilly, the Fox News pundit we all love to hate, is the latest journalist facing heat for inflating (or straight-up lying?) about experiences in his early reporting days in South America. O'Reilly claimed — among other things — to have seen nuns being executed in El Salvador. But skeptics point out his timeline doesn't make sense.



FLOYD + VIOLET FOREVER

The hottest hot of the week shoutout goes to the late Floyd and Violet Hartwig of Fresno, Calif., who died holding hands. The two met at a dance hall while he was on leave from the Navy. During their 67-year marriage, people often commented on their deep connection. When the family sensed they were ready to leave this world, they pushed their beds together. Floyd went first and Violet followed him five hours later. Rest in peace, Mr. and Mrs. Hartwig.

metro

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A backstage peek at the CSAs

Awards show. Metro's movie man Richard Crouse shares his most memorable moments covering Canada's biggest awards show

Fresh from her Oscar win, Julianne Moore is set to attend the Canadian Screen Awards this weekend. Moore, who is nominated for her role in David Cronenberg's Maps To The Stars, will be among the presenters during the show, televised on CBC Sunday. CONTRIBUTED

Richard's ratings

Focus

The Lazarus Effect

Elephant Song

Big News From Grand Rock

Everybody knows what happens on stage at a big show like this Sunday's Canadian Screen Awards.

A host sings, dances and/or tells jokes, glamorous presenters tear open envelopes and announce award winners who thank everyone from managers to spouses to Jesus. There's the slapping of backs, bespoke tuxedos and flowing gowns and tears.

Add in some drama, a red carpet and you have the ingredients of a big awards show, but what happens backstage?

Lots, as it turns out.

Every year at the Canadian Screen Awards there's a whole other show that happens offstage in the pressroom. Located deep in the bowels of the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, it is my domain during the live broadcast.

I host the room, interviewing the winners as they come off stage in front of an "audience" made up of local and national reporters, there for the free food and access to the celebs.

I am the purveyor of sound bites, the compère to the press who take the interviews I do and turn them into stories for the next day's papers and newscasts.

Over the years Elvis Costello, Tatiana Maslany, William Shatner and many others have passed through, tossing out bon mots like they were candy. Jay Baruchel let it slip he was engaged to Alison Pill on our small stage. Viggo Mortensen proudly waved the Montreal Canadiens flag in the face of a roomful of Leafs fans and Jill Hennessey gushed about the Canadian Screen Awards gift bag, thanking the Academy for the Norman Jewison Maple Syrup.

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE

It's an easy gig for me. Everyone who comes down from the main stage is a winner, automatically in a good mood and ready to have some fun.

When Lifetime Achievement Award winner David Cronenberg was asked where the inspiration for his movies came from he took a moment to examine the assembled crowd of journalists before deadpanning, "Just standing here is giving me all kinds of ideas for horror films."

Call Me Fitz star Tracy Dawson picked up a CSA for best actress but later told me that awards don't guarantee work.

She won a Gemini in 2011 for playing Meghan Fitzpatrick on the show and thought she had it made. Then her phone didn't ring for ten months.

In the pressroom she joked that she wanted to be clear — she was looking for work. "I'm totally available," she laughed.

It's a different show downstairs, less glitzy and more relaxed.

This year Andrea Martin is taking over hosting duties from fellow-SCTVer Martin Short but I'll never forget last year how Short tore up the pressroom, still jacked up from hosting the show.

He was hilarious when I asked if he'd try and top his spectacular flying entrance next year. "I can only fly so many times," he said.

"That harness chafes."

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Orphan Black early Screen Award darling

CSAs. Sci-fi series takes home eight awards in pre-show presentation, while another big nominee, police drama 19-2, goes away empty-handed

The sci-fi clone saga Orphan Black heads into this weekend's Canadian Screen Awards with a leading eight wins under its belt.

The Space TV series collected the trophies at an early awards ceremony Wednesday, which handed out hardware in most of the television categories.

MuchMusic and MTV's Degrassi also scored big with four wins, while CBC-TV's The Rick Mercer Report and HBO Canada's Sensitive Skin each collected three.

Orphan Black entered the race with a leading 13 nominations, tied with the Xavier Dolan film Mommy.

Dolan and his fellow film nominees won't learn their fates until Sunday, when a non-televised ceremony will hand out most of the film awards.

A star-studded televised bash on Sunday night, hosted by comedy star Andrea Martin, will feature the marquee TV and film awards.

The show is set to air on CBC-TV.

Early wins for Orphan Black included best casting, directing and writing as well as a supporting actor trophy for Jordan Gavaris for his turn as the flamboyant Felix.

Gavaris won the same category last year.

Series star Tatiana Maslany — who has wowed critics for deftly tackling a slew of disparate cloned characters — will seek a repeat win for best actress on Sunday's televised ceremony, while the show competes for best dramatic series against Bravo's 19-2, Showcase's Continuum, CTV's Motive, and Global's Remedy.

Meanwhile, critically acclaimed cop drama 19-2 came up empty-handed Wednesday, despite entering the race with 10 nominations overall.

It's up for two final trophies Sunday, including best drama and best actor for Jared Keeso.

Orphan Black star Tatiana Maslany is looking to repeat her win for best actress at the CSAs this Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robert Pattinson is nominated for best supporting actor for his role in David Cronenberg's Maps to the Stars. CONTRIBUTED

Xavier Dolan's film Mommy entered the CSA race with a leading 13 nominations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

East Coast comic Jonathan Torrens claimed the sole win Wednesday for CBC-TV's sitcom Mr. D, which also had 10 nominations overall.

Torrens earned the trophy for his featured supporting role as kooky vice-principal Cheeley.

The school-set sitcom will seek the best comedy title Sunday against TMN/Movie Central's Call Me Fitz, City's Seed, CTV's Spun Out, and Super Channel's Tiny Plastic Men.

Star Gerry Dee is also still up for best comic lead actor, against Adam Korson of City's Seed, Don McKellar of Sensitive Skin, Dave Foley of CTV's Spun Out, and Mark Meer of Super Channel's Tiny Plastic Men.

Sunday promises to include some Hollywood star wattage with recent Oscar-winner Julianne Moore, who is set to present an award.

She's also competing in the best actress category for her turn as an aging starlet in David Cronenberg's Maps to the Stars.

She's up against Ahn Ji Hye and Yoon Da Kyung, both for In Her Place, Julianne Cote for Tu dors Nicole, and Anne Dorval for Mommy.

Meanwhile, the best actor competition pits Ryan Reynolds from The Captive against Bruce Greenwood for Elephant Song, Michael Murphy for Fall, Evan Bird for Maps To The Stars and Antoine Olivier Pilon for Mommy.

The supporting actor category includes John Cusack and Robert Pattinson, each for Maps To The Stars, as well as Justin Chatwin for Bang Bang Baby, Marc-Andre Grondin for Tu dors Nicole and Kris Demeanor for The Valley Below.

The supporting actress race includes Sandrine Bisson for 1987, Kil Hae Yeon for In Her Place, Mia Wasikowska for Maps To The Stars, Suzanne Clement for Mommy and Catherine St-Laurent for Tu dors Nicole.

Cronenberg's dark comedy boasts 11 nominations but faces stiff competition from Mommy, which recently beat Richard Linklater's Boyhood and Wes Anderson's The Grand Budapest Hotel to be crowned best foreign film at France's Cesar Awards.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alternative categories

Real life gets rewarded

So far, The Amazing Race Canada is having an amazing run at the Canadian Screen Awards.

The second season of the popular CTV reality series claimed three trophies at an early awards show Tuesday, which recognized the best in documentary, reality, lifestyle, news, sports and digital media categories. It included wins for best direction, picture editing and writing. The best reality show trophy will be handed out Sunday. The documentary prizes were split between TMN/Movie Central's Our Man in Tehran, which took five awards including best doc and direction, and History Channel's Tales from the Organ Trade, which claimed four, including best writing and the Donald Britton Award for best social/political doc. Winners in the news categories included Global National for best national newscast, CBC's The Fifth Estate for best news or information program, CTV's W5 journalist Tom Kennedy for best host or interviewer in a news or information program or series, and CTV News journalist Janis Mackey Frayer for best national reportage. The prize for best live sports event went to CBC's coverage of the Olympic women's gold medal hockey game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ken Taylor, Canada's former ambassador to Iran, in Our Man in Tehran, which won best doc at an early CSAs presentation. CONTRIBUTED

Now in theatres

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:*

Comedy/International

After The Ball

Director. Sean Garrity

Stars. Portia Doubleday, Chris Noth

Kate's dream is to design for couturier houses. Although she is a bright new talent, Kate can't get a job. No one trusts the daughter of Lee Kassell, a retail guru who markets clothes "inspired" by the very designers Kate wants to work for. Reluctantly, Kate joins the family business where she must navigate around her duplicitous stepmother and two wicked stepsisters.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet
Audience: 61%

Drama/Comedy

Focus

Director. John Requa, Glenn Ficarra

Stars. Will Smith, Rodrigo Santoro

A con artist (Will Smith) takes on an inexperienced apprentice in this crime comedy from the filmmaking duo behind Crazy Stupid Love: Glenn Ficarra and John Requa.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet
Audience: 95%

Horror

The Lazarus Effect

Director. David Gelb

Stars. Olivia Wilde, Mark Duplass

The Lazarus Effect follows a group of researchers led by Frank (Mark Duplass) and his fiancée Zoe (Olivia Wilde), who've achieved the unimaginable — bringing the dead back to life. After a successful, yet unsanctioned, trial on a newly deceased animal, the team is ready to unveil their breakthrough to the world.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet
Audience: 64%

Comedy

Hot Tub Time Machine 2

Director. Steve Pink

Stars. Craig Robinson, Rob Corddry

Hot Tub Time Machine director Steve Pink returns to the helm for this sequel set 10 years in the future, and starring Rob Corddry, Adam Scott, Clark Duke, and Craig Robinson.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 15%
Audience: 41%

Drama

Leviathan

Director. Andrey Zvyagintsev

Stars. Elena Liadova, Alexei Serebriakov

The latest drama from Andrey Zvyagintsev, the acclaimed director of The Return. Kolya (Alexeï Serebriakov) lives in a small fishing town near the stunning Barents Sea in Northern Russia. He owns an auto-repair shop that stands right next to the house where he lives with his young wife Lilya (Elena Liadova) and his son Roma (Serguei Pokhodaev) from a previous marriage.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 99%
Audience: 83%

Drama

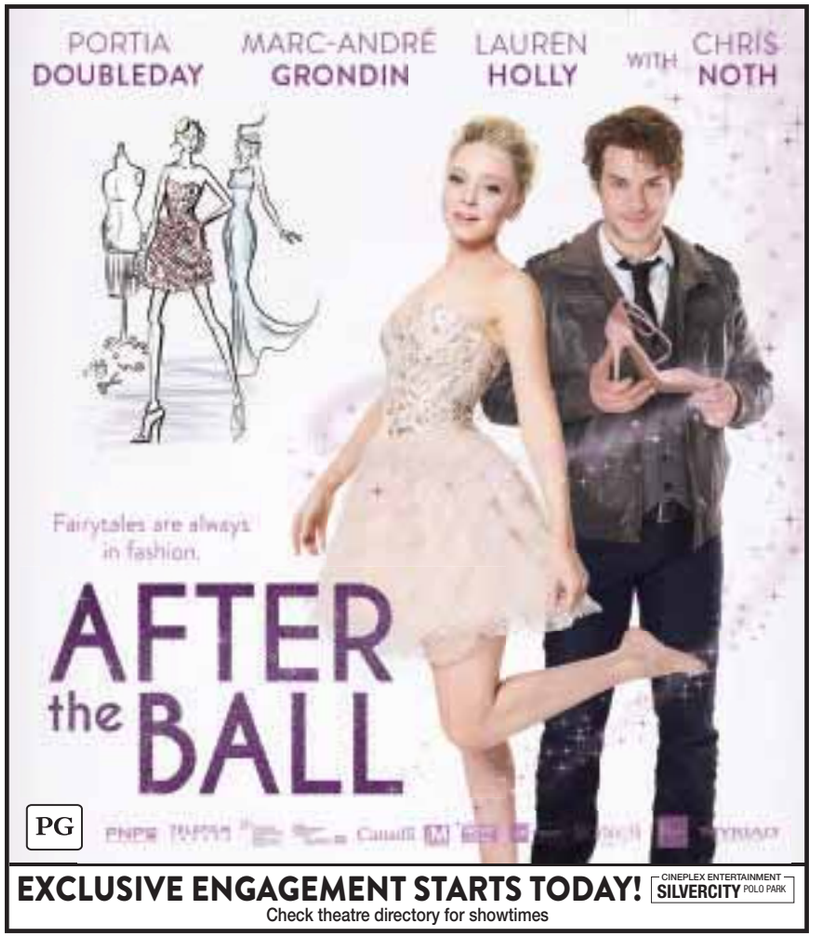
McFarland

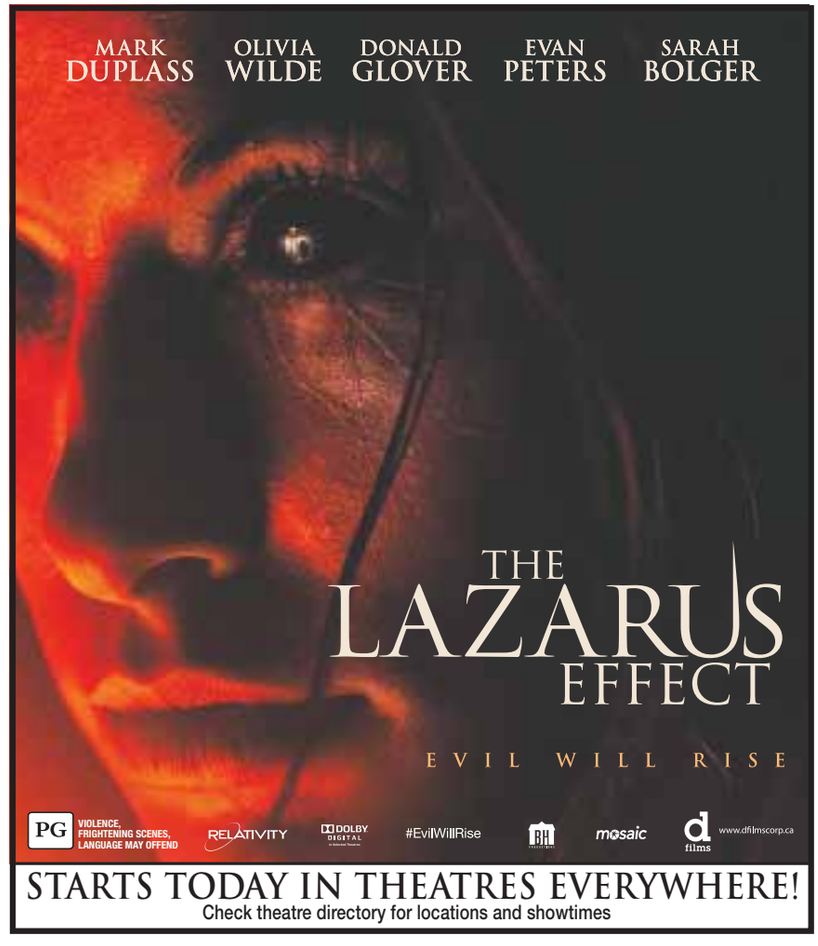
Director. Niki Caro

Stars. Kevin Costner, Carlos Pratt

From Disney comes McFarland, the true against-all-odds story of the 1987 McFarland high school cross-country team in an economically challenged community.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 78%
Audience: 91%





What it's like to be the belle — and beau — of the ball

Film. As women are too often cast to support a male lead, actress Portia Doubleday is excited to play both genders

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Portia Doubleday plays Kate, as well as Nate, in After the Ball. CONTRIBUTED

Portia Doubleday was so tired of taking on trite female roles, the actress decided to play both a woman and a man in her latest movie.

In After the Ball, the Hollywood-based actress of such cinematic hits as Carrie and Her plays Kate, a determined young fashion designer that transforms herself into Nate — a brash, bespectacled style-sensation — in order to land a cushy couturier job.

"I definitely find that in many scripts, I'm so deterred by female characters that are written to fill this supporting role to a male lead," said Doubleday from Los Angeles ahead of the film's upcoming release.

"The linear nature of having to be this machine as opposed to the central character and being complex ... I'm attracted to roles that push the limit of that border."

For Doubleday, the border-pushing dual-role also meant the budding star had to convincingly portray a different gender.

While finding the character of Kate was exercise enough, learning to play a man proved an entirely new challenge.

"It took me a long time," admitted Doubleday. "(But) it just started to come together with the wardrobe, honestly.

"I had to wear this body suit and I couldn't bend; I had to be constantly upright. It's amazing — with that kind of posture, you instantly become a different person."

Northern exposure

Doubleday on filming in Montreal

- "I don't know if it's just a Canadian thing but the nature of people in Canada is just overwhelmingly wonderful," said Doubleday. "The crew was incredible and that was so great, it just kind of lends itself to creativity. You just feel more comfortable."

While the comedic practice of switching identities may not be altogether pioneering (see classics like Tootsie or Some Like it Hot, for starters), After the Ball does take the premise to a new plateau by enveloping the twist into a Cinderella story — just the latest adaptation that has tailored itself on the 17th-century classic.

"It just never gets old," explained Doubleday of the narrative's endurance.

"The reason why I was so attracted to this version of a Cinderella story is — the guys don't save Cinderella in the end, she saves herself, and I think that's the beautiful message of this movie."

Playing a dangerous game in Elephant Song

Thriller. As offers come pouring in, seasoned actor recalls soon-to-open film he shot two years prior

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Bruce Greenwood, right, plays hospital chief of staff Dr. Toby Green opposite Xavier Dolan in Elephant Song. CONTRIBUTED

Bruce Greenwood is a busy actor who has spent much of the last year on set, away from his Los Angeles home.

"Yesterday I found myself reading a script," he says of a rare day off. "I was lying on the coach and I put the script down and fell asleep in the sun. I woke up an hour later and said to my wife, 'We're home. I'm lying on the coach. I could get up and make tea but I don't have to. My bag is not packed.'"

When he isn't on set the actor, best known as Christopher Pike in the rebooted Star Trek series, occupies himself in the kitchen.

"I'm baking bread," he says. "It's my new thing. I'm making at least a couple of baguettes a day. Usually I make three in a batch, give two to the neighbours and force the other one on my wife."

In the new psychological thriller Elephant Song — just one of four movies he has in the pipeline — Greenwood as hospital chief of staff Dr. Toby Green is lured into a cat-and-mouse game with Michael, a long-time patient played by Xavier Dolan, who may know the whereabouts of a missing doctor.

Authentic encounter

He decided that when the two characters meet in the film for the first time it might be interesting that, as actors, we were meeting for the first time while the cameras were rolling.

Bruce Greenwood

Greenwood hadn't met his co-star and Dolan wanted to keep it that way — at least until they shot their first scene.

"He had a great idea early on, which serves to illustrate how willing he is to experiment," says Greenwood. "He decided that when the two characters meet in the film for the first time it might be interesting that, as actors, we were meeting for the first time while the cameras were rolling. I kind of thought, 'Well, that's a bit of extra lifting I don't think is really necessary.' But he really wanted to try it so I said, 'OK.' When he walked into the room all this stuff started pouring through my system that I couldn't have anticipated. It turned out to be a great idea."

Greenwood has been so busy, he had to rely on journalists to refresh his memory about Elephant Song, a movie he shot almost two years ago.

"It is one of those things where if you are doing 10 interviews in a row, the first two interviewers get the short end of the stick because during the interviews you're reminded of what the film was about. By the third interview, 20 minutes in, you remember what it was about the film that excited you and interested you and challenged you. Today after the first couple of interviews I hung up the phone and thought, 'God, those poor people must think I'm an idiot.'"

Olivia Wilde takes a stab at low-budget horror

Casting. Actress has done medical dramas and science fiction, but in The Lazarus Effect she kicks it up a notch by trying to bring back the dead

MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City

Olivia Wilde has played computer programs (Tron: Legacy) and an alien (in a movie for which this would be a spoiler), but in real life she's personable, talkative and friendly. She gets to play both sides of the fence in The Lazarus Effect, a low-budget horror in which she's a brilliant scientist experimenting with a serum that can bring the dead back to life — one that winds up being used on her when she's accidentally killed, with horrific consequences.

You've said you're very analytical when it comes to scripts. How did that apply to this project?
I tend to get really analytical with the material. My nickname on a few films has been The Logic Police. Even with this film, where logic seemingly should not count, I still held everyone to the rules we established. That's how I view films. When I watch something, I will buy anything. Any kind of story you want to give me I'm happy to watch — as long as it's consistent with the rules you lay out.

A lot of horror films about scientists tend to be anti-science, but this walks a fine line of being respectful of scientists and wary of some of the deeply flawed and all-too-human actions some characters take.
We didn't want it to seem horribly irresponsible of them. It clearly comes from a passionate place. If you think about how much has been developed in 50 years, it's insane. Triple bypass surgeries happen on a daily basis today; we're used to hearing about people surviving. If you went back and told your great-grandparents that, they'd think you were insane. The idea of a Lazarus serum is not completely off-base. We imagined it would be used to keep someone alive or bring them back to life as they flatline during a surgery, let's say — that you just need them to stay alive so you can finish the procedure. That's how we made sense to it. That probably is in the works, because there are things that have been developed to keep a heart pumping during surgery. There's all sorts of technology to keep our bodies moving when they're being taken apart. Having that logical basis to start from was important to me.

Does that come from playing a doctor on House for five years?
Yeah. I really love learning about medical technology, and I have such an enormous respect for doctors. They're superheroes. I wanted to make sure we didn't portray them as horribly irresponsible. I wanted to show they were coming from a good place and that it went horribly wrong. Science is not the enemy. It's human beings who mess up. It's hubris, as always, that leads us to disaster.

This is a horror film that's not stocked with typically horror film actors. You have Mark Duplass, who does indies, Donald Glover, who's synonymous with comedy, and yourself.
People mostly enjoy watching actors who are not known for horror because maybe they relate to them in a way that puts them in the scary situation the characters are in. It adds to the unpredictability of what horror can do. It's about misdirection.

Olivia Wilde appears in a scene from The Lazarus Effect.
DANIEL MCFADDEN/RELATIVITY MEDIA

On motherhood and acting

How much has becoming a mother changed your acting?

- "You can't tell when you watch the movie, but there were three shoots we did where I am 8 1/2 months pregnant. I didn't expect to be working at that stage of pregnancy. But in fact, it was kind of awesome, because my emotions were so close to the surface. I felt capable of anything, any human emotion, from misery to rage to extreme happiness. It's an amazing thing that happens with pregnancy and with motherhood. Since having my son, I feel I'm a better actress. But yeah, I was doing some shots with this huge belly. You'll notice me sometimes saying my lines over my shoulder in a weird way. (Laughs) That would be why."

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Chemistry in the Cards for characters

TV. Actors Mahershala Ali and Molly Parker talk Remy and Jackie's understated love story

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro in New York

Molly Parker and Mahershala Ali find love in the dark, twisty world of House of Cards. DAVID GIESBRECHT /FOR NETFLIX

House of Cards, Netflix's Macbeth-esque look at the extremes to which Frank Underwood and his wife Claire go to achieve and maintain power, is not known for love stories. But that's just what Mahershala Ali's lobbyist Remy Danton and Molly Parker's congresswoman Jackie Sharp find themselves in. We talked to them about why their characters are willing to take risks for love in a power-mad world.

On connection

Mahershala Ali: Remy has a lot of respect for Jackie. Sometimes you just can't explain chemistry, either. I think they hit it off in a way that kind of goes a little bit beyond words. He's just drawn to her. She's an attractive woman who wields a certain degree of power. I think the circles that Remy finds himself in, I think it's been difficult for him to find a partner. Someone who he can really have a conversation with on that level who he finds attractive, who challenges him.

Molly Parker: I mean, I think that Jackie and Remy have a very pure, hot, physical connection. ... Here's this man who is very much like her in many ways. He has a lot of the same qualities in terms of his intelligence and his ambitions and his willingness to sacrifice his life for power and money, and yet they have this incredibly deep pull towards one another for which they would have to risk all of these other things that they've worked for in order to be together.

On working together

Ali: I really just love working with Molly. And any way that I can get that, I'm really appreciative. I think (writer) Beau Willimon does a wonderful job as far as challenging us as actors and when we sit down and we're kind of co-creating and collaborating,

Molly and I get to really comb through it and try to get to the essence of the relationship and kind of dig into whatever scene it is that we're working on that day.

Parker: They're great scenes. Mahershala Ali is one of the most loving human beings I've ever met, truly, and we have such a great time with that relationship, just as actors, just sort of exploring all of the hidden dynamics of that relationship. It's really fun. He's so lovely.

From reel to reality

Show predicts political tensions

House of Cards' geopolitical plotline involving Kevin Spacey's freshly sworn-in president and the distinctly Putin-esque Russian leader Viktor Petrov (Lars Mikkelsen) may feel Xeroxed from the morning paper, but Cards creator Beau Willimon swears the show conceived the conflict first.

"Our concern in the writers' room was that it might be too far afield from reality, because at the time we were conceiving it, nothing was really going on with Russia aside from the Sochi Olympics," Willimon said this week in a telephone interview.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Beat the winter blahs with fresh citrus twist

Entertaining. This Lemon and Basil Scallops dish comes together quickly but will impress dinner guests

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

For a dose of freshness choose recipes that combine savoury seafood and the tang of citrus, like this one, which comes together in less than an hour.

Ingredients

Lemon Cream
- 1 cup (250 ml) 35% cooking cream
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) chicken broth
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1 tsp (5 ml) lemon juice
- Salt and pepper

Basil Oil
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) olive oil
- 1/4 cup (11 g) chopped fresh basil
- 1/2 tsp (2 1/2 ml) lemon juice
- Salt and pepper

Vegetable Julienne
- 1/3 cup (76 g) butter
- 6 carrots, peeled and cut into julienne
- 1 leek, cut into julienne

Scallops
- 20 large scallops
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- Salt and pepper

This recipe serves four. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Lemon Cream

1. In a saucepan, combine all the ingredients. Cook over medium heat for about 15 minutes to reduce by half. Season with salt and pepper. Keep warm.

Basil Oil

1. Combine all the ingredients in a small food processor or with a whisk. Set aside.

Vegetable Julienne

1. In a skillet, over medium heat, melt 3 tbsp of butter. Add the vegetables and cook for about 6 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Keep warm.

Scallops

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 375 F (190 C).

2. In skillet over high heat, add 1 tbsp of the butter and 1 tbsp of the oil. Sear half the scallops for about 1 minute on each side. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside on a baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining scallops, butter, and oil. Place the baking sheet in the oven and cook for about 2 minutes.

3. Arrange vegetables in the centre of the plates and the scallops around them. Drizzle with lemon cream and run a thread of basil oil around the edge of plate. **FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.**

Liquid Assets

New Zealand's bold flavours

LIQUID ASSETS
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Wine is more than just a drink. It's an experience.

While where you are and who you're with can certainly affect your liquid enjoyment, for me nothing beats combining wine with food.

When I travel, I always look for the opportunity to eat my way into the mind of the winemaker.

You'd think that plan works best in old school wine-producing countries like those in Europe.

Not so. When I was in New Zealand last year, I was impressed by how wineries looked to their regional kitchens for inspiration, and this week's recipe from Chef Ricardo for lime and basil scallops sounds like a page out of the Kiwi cookbook.

In New Zealand, seafood is king and scallops are a national delicacy.

The citrus and herbal elements of Ricardo's dish match perfectly with a wine like Cloudy Bay's 2013 Sauvignon Blanc ($31.95 - $36.99), a white with rich, bold flavours that's earned the winery the reputation as one of New Zealand's best producers. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

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SPORTS 4

Deadline buyers and sellers

Canada's seven NHL teams have very different perspectives and goals to accomplish before Monday's trade deadline. Here's a look at where they stand as the clock ticks down to 3 p.m. on March 2.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa Senators

Status: Sitters
Skinny: If the decision has been made not to trade long-time tough guy Chris Neil, the Senators may be best suited to stand pat. Defenceman Marc Methot is off the market thanks to his new contract, and Ottawa doesn't have many assets to sell off for spare parts.

Chris Neil FRANCOIS LAPLANTE/FREESTYLEPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

Montreal Canadiens

Status: Buyers
Skinny: General manager Marc Bergevin already made a hockey trade by swapping skilled but inexperienced winger Jiri Sekac with Devante Smith-Pelly, a bigger and more physical player from the Anaheim Ducks. The Habs could use another defenceman, though, especially a right-handed one.

Jiri Tlusty CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Winnipeg Jets

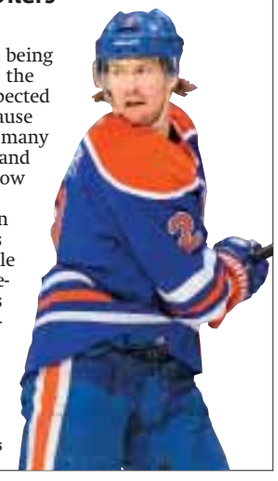
Status: Buyers
Skinny: The Evander Kane blockbuster set the table for what should be a legitimate playoff chase in Winnipeg, and the deal for Jiri Tlusty gave the Jets more needed depth. But with a chance to make the post-season for the first time in this incarnation, the Jets could still make another move.

Vancouver Canucks

Status: Sitters
Skinny: Ryan Miller's injury puts the onus on Eddie Lack and Jacob Markstrom, but the Canucks aren't in the market for another goaltender. Barring a collapse, Vancouver should be a playoff team and would hope to get Kevin Bieksa back from a hand injury at some point.

Edmonton Oilers

Status: Sellers
Skinny: Despite being last in the West, the Oilers aren't expected to be active because they don't have many movable pieces and don't want to blow up their core of Taylor Hall, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Jordan Eberle just yet. Defenceman Jeff Petry is Edmonton's biggest trade chip.



Jeff Petry DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

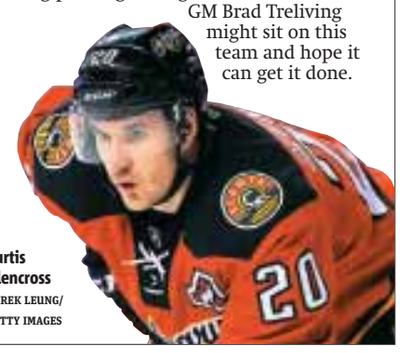
Toronto Maple Leafs

Status: Sellers
Skinny: Cody Franson, Mike Santorelli, Daniel Winnik and David Clarkson are already gone as GM Dave Nonis got a jump on the trade-deadline frenzy. But the Leafs are far from done, especially with Olli Jokinen, David Booth and Korbinian Holzer as impeding free agents and a large-scale rebuild coming soon.

Olli Jokinen TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Calgary Flames

Status: Sitters
Skinny: The Flames are in the playoff race in the Western Conference like the Jets, but they're still supposed to be on the upward climb and have a long-term plan. Other than dealing pending free agent Curtis Glencross, GM Brad Treliving might sit on this team and hope it can get it done.



Curtis Glencross DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Jets shot down by Blues in a shootout

The Blues' T.J. Oshie attempts a wraparound against Jets goaltender Michael Hutchinson and defenceman Tyler Myers at the MTS Centre on Thursday.
JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alexander Steen scored the winner in a shootout as the St. Louis Blues defeated the Winnipeg Jets 2-1 on Thursday.

Vladimir Tarasenko also scored in the shootout for the Blues (39-18-4) while Patrik Berglund scored in regulation.

Andrew Ladd had the lone goal in the shootout for the Jets (31-20-12).

Mark Scheifele found the back of the net in the third period.

Brian Elliott made 30 saves for St. Louis through regulation and overtime as Michael Hutchinson stopped 28 shots for Winnipeg.

On Thursday

Blues	Jets
2	1

Berglund got the game's first goal with 1:49 left in the second period, but the Jets tied it up with Scheifele's 10th goal of the season at 3:14 of the third.

The Jets were playing the second game of a four-game homestand. The loss halted a season-long four-game home winning streak.

The contest began a five-game road trip for the Blues, who are playing 11 of their next 14 games away from home. They travel to Edmonton for a game on Saturday.

The Central Division rivals still have three games against each other this season, with two in St. Louis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A clash of egos is likely over the next 24 hours but that's OK. It's time you reminded certain people that you are the boss. Don't go too far though.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You will go out of your way to calm someone down but your efforts may not be enough. The fact is their emotions are a bit raw, so make allowances.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Ask others for their opinions today but don't let what they say bind you to a certain course of action. Others will respect you more if you act according to your own principles.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
No one is perfect, not even a Cancer, and if you accept that fact you won't waste valuable time worrying that you failed to live up to expectations.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone will appeal to your sense of duty but you must not blindly do as they ask. You are willing to help but you must be convinced that what you are doing is for the greater good.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will trust what you are told on the work front today, simply because the person doing the telling is someone you look up to. However, according to the planets they have got it wrong.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You cannot solve your problems by throwing cash at them. If anything that will just make matters worse. According to the planets it won't be long before a better way presents itself.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Spend as much time as you can with loved ones because over the weekend they will be very busy and you will have things to occupy you as well.

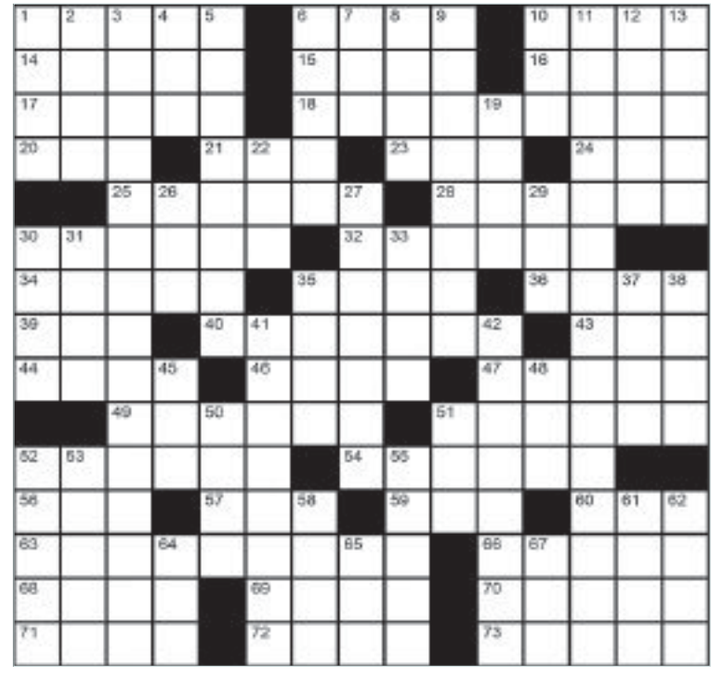
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If someone throws their weight around your instinct will be to start throwing things back at them, but don't be too hasty. A more effective response is to ignore them.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be careful when dealing with people in positions of authority today. It does not matter that you are right, what matters is that they have the power.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A loved one will tell you something you don't want to hear today, not least because it involves bad things about a person you like. Their motive is to drive a wedge between you.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Someone you live or work with will try to take liberties over the next 24 hours and you must not let them get away with it. If they do it once they will try again!

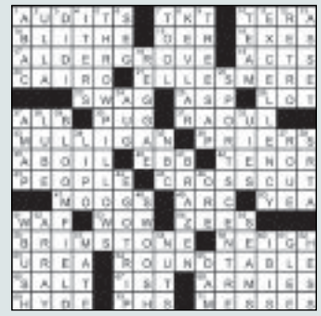
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. "Sing, Sing, Sing" drummer, Gene __ (b.1909 - d.1973)
6. Brood
10. Scheduled date, briefly
14. Banqueted
15. Bee Gees: "More __ a Woman"
16. Ms. Kunis
17. Annually, __ _ year
18. New Brunswick community known for a tragic 1959 storm
20. Old English letter
21. Curly's pal
23. __-Fi
24. Personal history blurb
25. Guarantee
28. Coach in Archie Comics
30. Workshop tools
32. Sun: French
34. Primitive painter of France, __ 'Le Douanier' Rousseau
35. A-F link
36. Batch
39. 'Prop' suffix (Fuel)
40. Spectators' cry of double displeasure
43. Spring month
44. Mrs. Lincoln's maiden name
46. Emily Carr book, __ Wyck
47. Janis Joplin's nickname
49. Red Square city
51. Arctic Circle = __ Arctique
52. Music-listener's purchase
54. Mr. John of CBC comedy "Mr. D"
56. Angle type, briefly
57. Sundance Film Festival actor ...his initials-sharers
59. Mythical bird
60. Gremlin
63. Frisbee's friend
66. Vietnam's capital
68. Prefix meaning 'Within'
69. Friend for Francoise
70. Spew
71. Curious George co-writers Margret and H.A.
72. Front-of-the-pack position
73. Cheeky

Down
1. "Mother-in-Law": 1961 hit for Ernie _-__
2. Tangerine part
3. Righteous Brothers hit: 2 wds.
4. Baseball great, "__ Wee" Reese
5. Eve's origins: 2 wds.
6. Turn
7. Hesitant sounds
8. Quebec 'lakes'
9. Moose __, Canadian parka company
10. "Who __ _ to say?"
11. Virgil's smuggled goods in Mordecai Richler's 1959 novel The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz: 2 wds.
12. SVP part
13. Old El Paso creations
19. "The Green __" (1999)
22. 'Humor' suffix
26. Sun. message
27. Shuns
29. '_' __ for Elmira
30. Excellent, in slang
31. Stand-up guy Jay
33. Garfield's pal
35. Western-style tie
37. Actor, James __ Jones
38. Actor Noah
41. Wild West - 1881: Legendary gunfight site in Arizona, _._. __
42. Song by Canadian band Walk Off The Earth
45. Val-_'__, Quebec
48. Hosp. units
50. Parched
51. __-Magnon Man
52. Post-rehab state
53. Bluegrass musician, _ __ Burnett
55. Recommended strongly
58. Ditto
61. Supermodel Kate
62. Sympathy
64. Feb. and Mar.
65. Ms. Peeples
67. Title in Turkey, variantly

Yesterday's Crossword

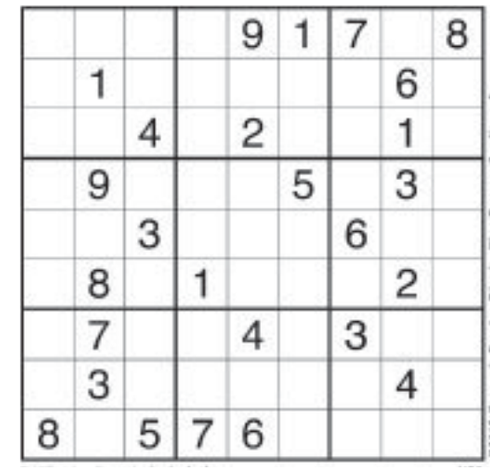


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	6	4	9	2	8	7	3
8	4	7	1	6	3	5	9	2
2	9	3	8	7	5	6	4	1
3	6	4	5	2	8	9	1	7
1	8	9	6	3	7	4	2	5
7	5	2	9	1	4	3	8	6
9	2	1	3	4	6	7	5	8
6	7	5	2	8	9	1	3	4
4	3	8	7	5	1	2	6	9

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